



Save Lake Peigneur, Inc.

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August 4, 2011

.To:

Senate Environmental Quality Committee

House Natural Resource & Environment Committee

Save Lake Peigneur, Inc. would like to add to the previous submitted comments on May 17, 2011. We also would like to thank Senator Morrell, the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and their staff for efforts for making this meeting possible. We would especially like to thank Senator Fred Mills for his active efforts in supporting his constituents for this event to happen, and of course we thank the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee for their interest and participation in today's event.

In 2006 AGL Resources/Jefferson Island Storage & Hub distributed a brochure to the public which states, "...of the 800 million gallons the Chicot aquifer pumps daily, our proposed usage is only approximately 0.6% to 2% of the historical usage of the aquifer." Translated 0.6% equals 4.8 million gallons to 2%, 16 million gallons of water withdrawal daily for approximately 4 years.

If we were to take the average between 4.8 million and 16 million gallons of water withdrawal, the water withdrawal is 10.4 million gallons of water withdrawal daily.

March 28, 2011 in an email communication provided by Ms. Gloria Conlin from John K. Lovelace, USGS

"As you noted, the Chicot Aquifer is the sole source of fresh groundwater for much of southwestern Louisiana. The USGS has not done any studies specifically to address the potential impacts of the JISH facility...From what I understand, the withdrawal rate at the JISH facility will be about 3 to 5 Mgal/d(million gallons per day) for a period of about **18 months**."

In 2006, the brochure stated approximately 5 to 16 million gallons of water were needed daily for 4 years to create 2 caverns. The current pending permit will expand the existing caverns and add 2 new caverns but use 5 million gallons of water daily for **18 months**. (JISH permit application Job No. 10-551, June 30, 2010)

How is it possible to increase the size of the cavern storage by at least a third, use the lowest figure of water withdrawal, in half the time?

We understand that in the past the Chicot aquifer has been prolific. We also realize that current data indicates a drought exists in Louisiana as well as in many areas of the United States.

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The USGS 300117092005601 Ve-501 graph illustrates a water well usage from 1952 through 2006. This well was the monitoring well in close proximity to the current AGL/JISH facility.

Data was collected yearly from 1952 through 1991. The groundwater level (in feet below surface) did not change dramatically for nearly 40 years. In 1952 the groundwater was 21 feet below surface level.

In 1991 the groundwater was 25 feet below surface level.

No data was collected for 8 years between the years of 1992 through 2000.

In 1994 the withdrawal of water began to create the existing two natural gas storage caverns.

In 2000 the groundwater was 29 feet below surface level.

1952 – 21 feet

1991 - 25 feet

2000 - 29 feet

It took eight years to drop the water table the same amount of water that formerly took forty years.

The last data recorded in 2003 showed an approximate one foot increase.

There is no data to determine why there was such a dramatic decrease during the years of cavern development.

Other aquifers in Louisiana such as the Sparta and Carrizo Wilcox have had to resort to using recycled wastewater as drinking water and attempting to use a lake to refill the aquifer.

AGL Resources/JISH experience in operating natural gas storage caverns has been less than 10 years. The DNR review of the Jefferson Island Storage & Hub permit application resulted in **15 pages** of deficiencies that the company has had to respond to. Tonight we are discussing environmental topics relating to the Chicot Aquifer, there are numerous other issues that relate to the overall project.

The Jefferson Island Salt Dome 1980 catastrophe is taught in environmental classes throughout the world and viewed on the History Channel. There have been NO studies of the salt dome since this disaster.

There are polar perspectives from the experts. Some say there will be no problem, others state there will be a problem. Is the state willing to risk the drinking water for the citizens of Louisiana with the knowledge that there are differing expert opinions?

Please listen carefully. We have one question to the public sitting here tonight:

If anyone here would like AGL Resources/Jefferson Island Storage & Hub receive their permit **WITHOUT**, I repeat **WITHOUT**, in depth studies of the Chicot Aquifer and the Jefferson Island Salt Dome;

please raise your hands.

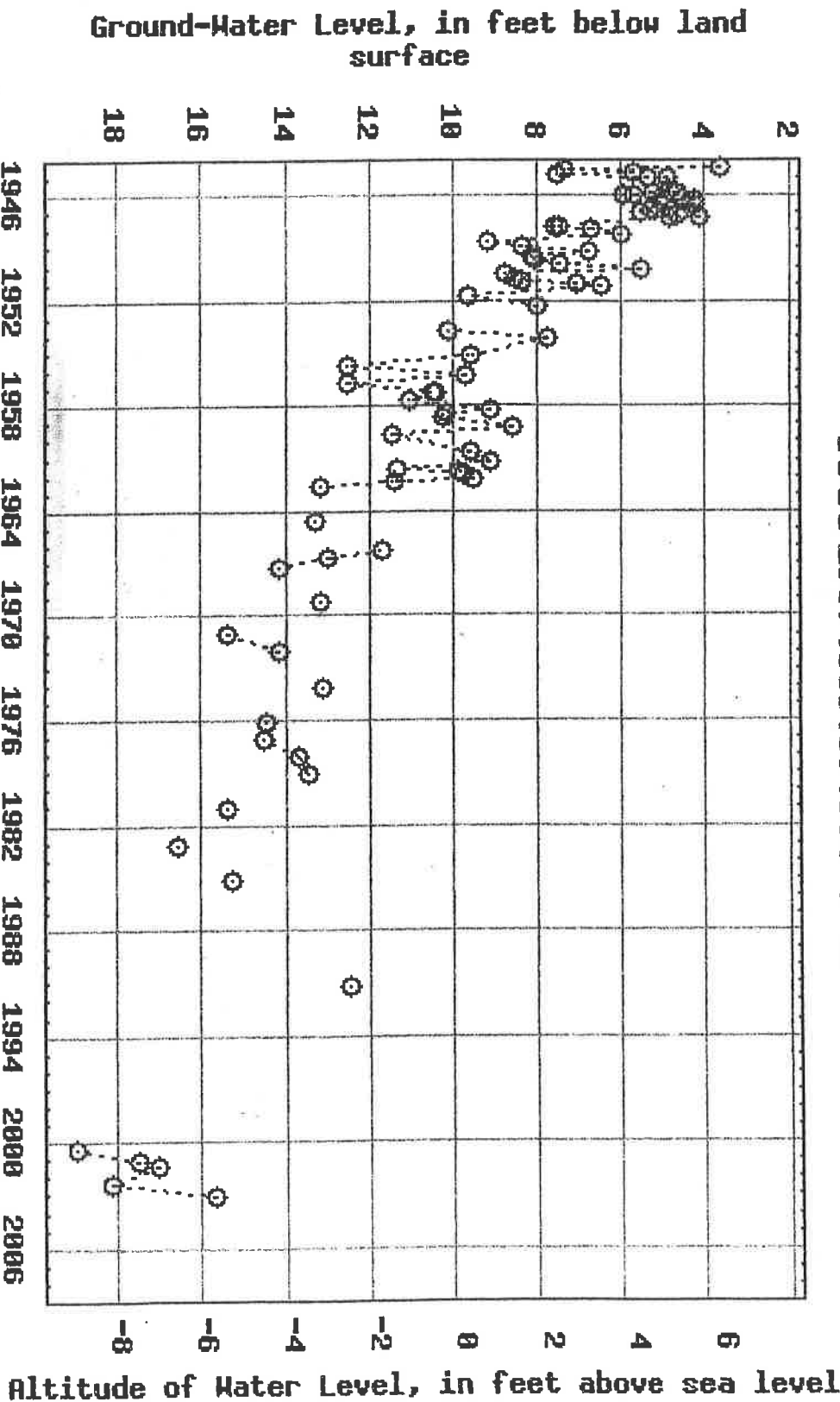
Nara Crowley

I-19 Location is 18,000 feet (3.4 miles) Southeast of JISH:
Groundwater-level decline of 12 to 14 feet since late 1940s –
stable or rising since 2000

URS



USGS 295748091571001 I-19



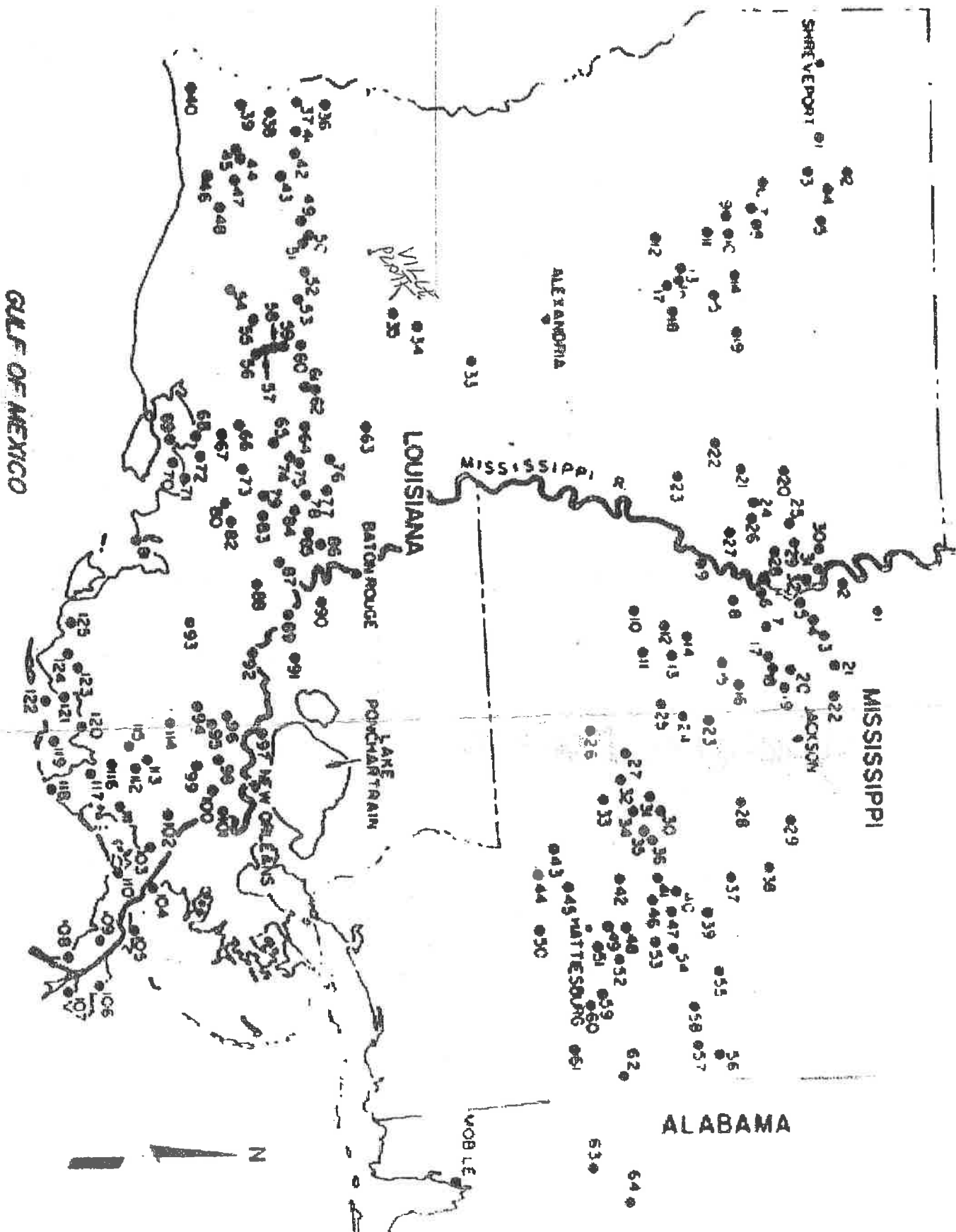


Figure 5 - Location of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama Salt Domes
(from Jirík and Weaver 1976)